

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /101 W

----- 124769

R 111550Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8448

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TS

SUBJ: GOT RATIFIES PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PERMIT IN
DISPUTED CONTINENTAL SHELF AREA

1. LAW NO. 75-5, APPROVING EXPLORATION PERMITS DATED
JAN 21, 1972, ON OFFSHORE AREA IN EASTERN PART OF GULF
OF GABES, WAS RATIFIED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SIGNED
BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ON FEB 19, 1975. EXPLORATION TO
BE CARRIED OUT BY SOCIETE D'EXPLOITATION PETROLIERE DE
GABES ORIENTAL (SEPEG), WHICH IS TUNISIAN JOINT VENTURE
GROUPING FRENCH COMPANIES AQUITAINE, ERAP, AND CFP AND
ITALIAN AGIP/ENI. LAW ALSO APPROVES CONVENTION OF
JUNE 27, 1974, BETWEEN GOT AND SEPEG AND OTHER DOCUMENTS
RELATED TO THIS PERMIT.

2. COMMENT: PERMIT COVERS OFFSHORE AREA JUST SOUTH OF
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MUCH LARGER PERMIT WHICH INCLUDES PROMISING ISIS FIELD.

ITS SOUTHERN AND PROBABLY EASTERN LIMITS ARE DISPUTED
BY LIBYA. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS GOT HAD HELD OFF FORMALLY
RATIFYING PERMIT AGREEMENTS IN HOPE OF CONCLUDING AGREE-
MENTS ON DIVISION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF WITH LARG.
RATIFICATION NOW APPEARS INDICATE GOT NOT OPTIMISTIC OF
EARLY SETTLEMENT AND HAS DECIDED TO BITE THE BULLET AND
PROCEED WITH EXPLORATION. COMPANIES WILL PROBABLY BE
SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS SINCE BOTH FRENCH AND ITALIANS
ALSO HAVE INTERESTS ON LIBYAN SIDE THEY DO NOT WISH TO
ENDANGER. DECISION PROBABLY ALSO INTENDED PRESAGE AWARD
IN NEAR FUTURE OF SMALL BUT PROMISING AREA SOUTHEAST OF
THIS EASTERN GULF OF GABES PERMIT TO TUNISIAN NATIONAL
OIL COMPANY (ETAP) TO BE EXPLORED UNDER SERVICE CONTRACT
ARRANGEMENT BY AMERICAN SUN OIL COMPANY.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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